

At an early period of Mr. Fox's ministry a Frenchman made the proposition to M^r of assassinating the Emperor, of which information he immediately transmitted to M. Talleyrand. In his despatch the Minister said that, though the laws of England did not authorize the permanent detention of any individual not convicted of a crime, he had on this occasion taken it on himself to secure the miscreant till such time as the French Government could be put on its guard against his attempts. Mr. Fox said in his letter that he had at first done this individual «the honor to take him for a spy» a phrase which sufficiently indicated the disgust with which the British Minister viewed him.

This information was the key which opened the door to new negotiations. M. de Talleyrand was ordered to express, in reply to the communication of Mr. Fox, that the Emperor was sensibly affected at the index it afforded of the principles by which the British Cabinet was actuated. Napoleon did not limit himself to this diplomatic courtesy; he deemed it a favorable occasion to create a belief that he was actuated by a sincere love of peace. He summoned to Paris Lord Yarborough, one of the most distinguished amongst the English who had been so unjustly detained in prison at Verdun on the rupture of the peace of Amiens. He his lordship instructed to propose to the British Government a new form of negotiations, offering to guarantee to England the Cape of Good Hope and Malta. Some have been inclined from this concession to praise the moderation of Bonaparte; others to blame him for offering to resign these two places, as if the Cape and Malta could be put in competition with the title of Emperor, the foundation of the Kingdom of Italy, the acquisition of Genoa and of all the Venetian States, the dethronement of the King of the Romans and the gift of his kingdom to Joseph, and finally, the new partition of Germany. The negotiations, of which Bonaparte said not a word, and from

which he certainly Had no intention of departing, were all long after the treaty of Amiens.

Every day brought with it fresh, proofs of insatiable ambition. In fact, Napoleon longed to obtain possession of the